



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUN 22 2012

Mr. Adam Ringia, Director
Environmental Program
Pueblo of Laguna
P. O. Box 194
Laguna, New Mexico 87026

Dear Mr. Ringia:

On March 15, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a notice in the *Federal Register* proposing that the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine be included on the Superfund National Priorities List. This proposal was followed by a 60-day public comment period, which ended on May 14, 2012. EPA is currently developing responses to any comments received on any of the sites proposed to the NPL in the March notice.

The mine was operated by the Anaconda Minerals Company, a division of the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO). EPA is evaluating information regarding the operations at the site and expects to complete its evaluation in late summer, at which time Special Notice Letters will be issued to any identified liable and viable potentially responsible parties (PRPs). EPA expects those determined to be PRPs to conduct the remedial investigation and the feasibility study at the Site. These studies will define the extent of contamination and human health and environmental risks from the contamination and evaluate alternatives to address these risks.

Upon receipt of this letter, the PRP(s) will have 60 days to respond to EPA with an offer to conduct the studies. During this 60-day period, it will be necessary for the identified PRPs to visit the site to understand current conditions, potential paths of contaminant migration, and potential human and environmental targets. This site visit will, in part, provide the basis for any PRPs' offer to conduct the remedial investigation and feasibility study. EPA will provide the Pueblo of Laguna a copy of the Special Notice Letter when it is sent to any PRP.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2197, or Ms. Petra Sanchez at (214) 665-6686. Ms. Sanchez is the EPA Remedial Project Manager for the Jackpile Mine site.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald H. Williams".

Donald H. Williams
Acting Associate Director
Superfund Enforcement and Technical Branch

cc: Jeannine Hale, Region 6